



August 10, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Andrea Palm
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear President Biden, Secretary Becerra, and Deputy Secretary Palm:

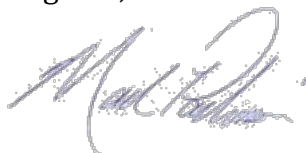
We, the undersigned organizations write on behalf of millions of older vulnerable Americans and their frontline caregivers throughout long-term care (LTC) provider organizations, including skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities (including dementia and Alzheimer's care), continuing care retirement communities, home and community-based providers, and independent senior living communities. We are asking for your immediate assistance in allocating remaining provider relief funds to long-term care facilities as quickly as possible.

As you know, long-term care providers have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for those most vulnerable to this virus. In doing so, they have incurred tens of billions of dollars in expenses and losses due to PPE, staffing needs, overtime and hero pay, and are experiencing record-low occupancy rates that continue to compound. While much of the economy is recovering, for these providers, COVID-19 is not over and the rapidly spreading Delta variant underscores the need to remain vigilant. While the provider relief fund has helped offset some of these losses from the first and second quarters of 2020, more is critically needed now to ensure caregivers have the financial resources to continue serving our nation's most vulnerable seniors. Providers have been anticipating the forthcoming Phase 4 of relief for months, and the Administration must ensure that these funds are made available in full and as quickly as possible.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in releasing Phase 4 funds as quickly as possible to ensure LTC providers have the financial resources needed to continue caring for their vulnerable residents. We are simply asking that these providers, who have been committed to ensuring the safety of residents and frontline workers throughout the past year and a half of this pandemic, are able to access relief in a timely and equitable manner.

We thank you for your continued attention to the needs of our nation's seniors and ask that remaining relief dollars be released as expeditiously as possible.

Regards,



Mark Parkinson
President & CEO

American Health
Care Association/
National Center for
Assisted Living
(AHCA/NCAL)



James Balda
President & CEO

Argentum



David Schless
President

American Seniors
Housing Association
(ASHA)



Katie Smith Sloan
President and CEO

LeadingAge